



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/820,707	3/30/01	DARE-BRYAN, VAL J.	105760

EXAMINER	
J. SLITERIS	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3616	10

DATE MAILED:

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) STEVE CATLIN (3) _____
(2) JOSELYNN SLITERIS (4) _____

Date of Interview 5/25/04

Type: ☐ Telephonic ☐ Televideo Conference ☒ Personal (copy is given to ☐ applicant ☒ applicant's representative).

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, brief description: _____

Agreement ☒ was reached. ☐ was not reached.

Claim(s) discussed: 1, 11, 16, 19

Identification of prior art discussed: ANGLADA (U.S. PAT. 1,481,405) & RUPERT, JR. ET AL. (U.S. PAT. 5,924,504).

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS 1 & 16 (SEE PROPOSED AMENDMENT ATTACHED) READS OVER THE PRIOR ART OF ANGLADA & RUPERT, JR INDIVIDUALLY. HOWEVER, EXAMINER NEEDS TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION AS TO WHETHER A 35 USC 103(a) REJECTION CAN BE MADE IN VIEW OF RUPERT, JR. OVER ANGLADA. FURTHER, EXAMINER WILL NEED TO UPDATE SEARCH. LASTLY, IT WAS AGREED THAT CLAIMS 11 & 19 MUST BE ATTACHED. ALSO, WHERE NO COPY OF THE AMENDMENTS WHICH WOULD RENDER THE CLAIMS ALLOWABLE IS AVAILABLE, A SUMMARY THEREOF MUST BE ATTACHED.

PREVIOUSLY OBJECTED TO WILL BE ALLOWABLE GIVEN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT (SEE ATTACHED).

☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary, A FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an attachment to another form.

QJR
5/25/04

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 713.04 Substance of Interview must Be Made of Record

Except as otherwise provided, a complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application, whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

§1.133 Interviews

(b) In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111 and 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

§ 1.2. Business to be transacted in writing. All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete a two-sheet carbon interleaf Interview Summary Form for each interview held after January 1, 1978 where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks in neat handwritten form using a ball point pen. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, or resulting in an examiner's amendment that fully sets forth the agreement are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate paper number, placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" list on the file wrapper. In a personal interview, the duplicate copy of the Form is removed and given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephonic interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number of the application
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (personal or telephonic)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the claims discussed
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). (Agreements as to allowability are tentative and do not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.)
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview
- Names of other Patent and Trademark Office personnel present.

The Form also contains a statement reminding the applicant of his responsibility to record the substance of the interview.

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his obligation to record the substance of the interview in each case unless both applicant and examiner agree that the examiner will record same. Where the examiner agrees to record the substance of the interview, or when it is adequately recorded on the Form or in an attachment to the Form, the examiner should check a box at the bottom of the Form informing the applicant that he need not supplement the Form by submitting a separate record of the substance of the interview.

It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview:

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner. The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner,
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete or accurate, the examiner will give the applicant one month from the date of the notifying letter to complete the reply and thereby avoid abandonment of the application (37 CFR 1.135(c)).

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

Applicant's summary of what took place at the interview should be carefully checked to determine the accuracy of any argument or statement attributed to the examiner during the interview. If there is an inaccuracy and it bears directly on the question of patentability, it should be pointed out in the next Office letter. If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth his or her version of the statement attributed to him. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication "Interview record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A wheel suspension assembly for a vehicle having wheels and a chassis, the suspension assembly comprising:

at least two trailing arm suspension members which are rotatably attachable to the chassis, each suspension member being designed to rotatably receive a wheel for rotation about a first axis;

at least two electric drive units which are ^{rigidly} ~~mountable~~ ^{ed} on the chassis, ^{separate from the trailing arm suspension members,} each said electric drive unit having an axis of rotation that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis; and

a transmission unit for each said electric drive unit, for transferring a drive force from each said drive unit to a respective one of the wheels, each said transmission unit including a gearbox that aligns the rotational axis of the drive unit with the first axis, each said transmission unit ~~also being extendible and retractable between the corresponding drive unit and the respective wheel~~ also including a constant velocity joint to accommodate pivoting of the suspension member relative to the chassis.

2. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
a transverse beam attached to the chassis, the suspension member being attached to the transverse beam.

3. (Original) The suspension assembly according to claim 2, wherein the suspension member is attached to the transverse beam at one end of the beam.

4. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 2, further comprising:
vibration isolators between the beam and the chassis.

5. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1, wherein the transmission unit comprises a gear reduction unit.

6. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1, further comprising a control unit for controlling at least two of the wheels when driven to obtain the desired drive characteristics of the vehicle, whereby at least two of the wheels may be driven at the same or different speeds according to predetermined drive parameters of the vehicle.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
a pivot which is rotatably attachable to the chassis, the suspension member being attached to the pivot.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The suspension assembly of claim 10, A wheel~~
suspension assembly for a vehicle having wheels and a chassis, the suspension assembly comprising:
at least two trailing arm suspension members which are rotatably attachable to
the chassis, each suspension member being designed to rotatably receive a wheel for rotation
about a first axis;
at least two electric drive units which are mountable on the chassis, each said
electric drive unit having an axis of rotation that is substantially perpendicular to the first
axis; and
a transmission unit for each said electric drive unit, for transferring a drive
force from each said drive unit to a respective one of the wheels, each said transmission unit
including a gearbox that aligns the rotational axis of the drive unit with the first axis, each
said transmission unit also including a constant velocity joint to accommodate pivoting of the
suspension member relative to the chassis,

_____ wherein the trailing arm suspension ~~unit~~member is in the form of a triangular frame, wherein a first corner of the triangular frame is mounted to the pivot such that an axis of rotation of the pivot is the axis of rotation of the trailing arm suspension ~~unit~~member, wherein a second corner is designed to rotatably receive a wheel and wherein a third corner interfaces with a shock absorption unit.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The suspension assembly of claim 1, wherein the transmission unit comprises a drive shaft and two constant velocity joints, said constant velocity joints being located at each end of said drive shaft ~~and, being extendible and retractable between the drive unit and the wheel to accommodate pivoting of the respective suspension member relative to the chassis.~~

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 2, wherein the drive unit is mounted on the chassis above the transverse beam, and wherein the transmission unit includes a downwardly extending drive shaft.

16. (Currently Amended) A wheel suspension assembly for a vehicle having wheels and a chassis, the suspension assembly comprising:

at least two spaced trailing arm suspension members which are rotatably attachable to the chassis, each of the at least two suspension members being designed to rotatably receive a wheel for rotation about a first axis;

at least two spaced electric drive units which are ^{rigidly} ~~mountable~~_{ed} on the chassis, ^{separate from the trailing arm suspension members,} each said electric drive unit having an axis of rotation that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis; and

at least two transmission units, each of said at least two transmission units interconnecting one of said electric drive units to one of the wheels, each of said transmission

units transferring a drive force from said corresponding one drive unit to said corresponding one wheel, each said transmission unit including a right angle gearbox that aligns the rotational axis of the drive unit with the first axis and a constant velocity joint ~~that is extendible and retractable~~ between said corresponding one drive unit and said corresponding one wheel to accommodate pivoting of the respective suspension member relative to the chassis.

17. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 16, further comprising:

at least two pivots which are rotatably attachable to the chassis, each of said at least two suspension members being attached to one of said at least two pivots.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The suspension assembly of claim 18, A wheel~~
suspension assembly for a vehicle having wheels and a chassis, the suspension assembly comprising:

at least two spaced trailing arm suspension members which are rotatably attachable to the chassis, each of the at least two suspension members being designed to rotatably receive a wheel for rotation about a first axis;

at least two spaced electric drive units which are mountable on the chassis, each said electric drive unit having an axis of rotation that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis; and

at least two transmission units, each of said at least two transmission units interconnecting one of said electric drive units to one of the wheels, each of said transmission units transferring a drive force from said corresponding one drive unit to said corresponding one wheel, each said transmission unit including a right angle gearbox that aligns the rotational axis of the drive unit with the first axis and a constant velocity joint that is extendible and retractable between said corresponding one drive unit and said corresponding

one wheel to accommodate pivoting of the respective suspension member relative to the chassis.

_____ wherein the trailing arm suspension ~~units~~members are in the form of a triangular frame, wherein a first corner of the triangular frame is mounted to one of said pivots such that an axis of rotation of the pivot is the axis of rotation of the trailing arm suspension ~~unit~~member, wherein a second corner is designed to rotatably receive a wheel and wherein a third corner interfaces with a shock absorption unit.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 16, wherein each of said at least two transmission units comprises a drive shaft and two constant velocity joints, said constant velocity joints being located at each end of said drive shaft and, being extendible and retractable between the drive unit and the wheel to accommodate pivoting of the respective suspension member relative to the chassis.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The suspension assembly of claim 16, wherein the right angle gearbox is adjacent to a wheel hub that receives the corresponding wheel.

24. (Previously Presented) The suspension assembly of claim 1, wherein the transmission further includes a drive shaft, step down gearing, and a right angle gear box.

25. (Previously Presented) The suspension assembly of claim 24, wherein the right angle gearbox is adjacent to a wheel hub that receives the corresponding wheel.

26. (Currently Amended) A bus containing the suspension assembly of claim 1, wherein ~~gethe~~the chassis of the bus has a width and each electric drive unit is mountable on the chassis substantially at a widthwise extremity.